

COOK INLET TRIBAL COUNCIL

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

2001-2002 Grant Amount: \$8 Million

Cook Inlet Tribal Council

670 West Fireweed Lane, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Tel: (907) 265-5900; Fax: (907) 265-5996

Project Dir, M.J. Longley:

mlongley@citci.com

Mission and Vision

To promote self-esteem and self-determination through a culturally appropriate program of education, training, occupational experience, and related services for youth in the most poverty stricken communities of Alaska, with special emphasis on Alaska's indigenous peoples.

Program Overview

Unique among Youth Opportunity sites, the Alaska program serves young people in forty (40) native villages throughout the state, separated from each other by as much as 1,800 miles. The Cook Inlet Tribal Council serves as the responsible grantee, operating a regionalized program through subcontracts with regional native nonprofit organizations. The youth development principles embodied in Youth Opportunity are tailored to village life and to cultural differences even among the forty villages.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES

- Contracts executed and services launched in 41 villages statewide
- Community service opportunities through proposals from the Youth Councils are provided for YO participants at each of the 41 sites
- YO has connected with the Alaska Adult Basic Education program at the State and regional levels to ensure that GED preparation is available to all youth. Training teams provide information to the 40-centers, traveling to both subcontractor locations and to the villages in each region
- Residential alternative boarding school expanded opportunities for YO participants
- Extensive staff training for highly decentralized staff has created a collective vision and values for the program
- Site (center) development accomplished through community task forces in every village
- Built administrative framework for serving and managing widely-distributed network for outcomes & accountability

KEY PARTNERS/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- The statewide Alaska YO program subcontracts with 14 Native regional nonprofit partners spanning cultural divides and regional boundaries; 13 city councils; and 22 corporations
- The educational component of the Alaska YO program has linkages with 23 school districts and 41 institutions of higher education.
- Contracts have been executed with 4 private sector youth-serving partners including an alternative boarding school; a demonstration project with Big Brothers Big Sisters to create an Alaska Native mentoring model; a statewide Native youth leadership conference and a college bridging program with transitional on campus YO student services
- The Alaska Native Coalition on Employment and Training (ANCET) advises and guides the Youth Opportunity Program
- The Alaska YO program maintains partnerships with 16 state agencies and programs including the Blueshirts -AK State Troopers, Departments of Corrections, Fish and Game, Transportation, Youth Juvenile Justice, Motor Vehicles, Fairbanks Job Center, Fish & Wildlife Protection, National Guard Armory, etc.
- The program has funded college transition and support services through the Youth Enrichment Program at the University of Alaska and Alaska Pacific University.